

Tuesday, February 28th, 2022
Wanda Austin

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Wanda Austin and I am a registered voter in city of Bridgeport.

I am here to testify in regards to the governor's proposed budget for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS).

I started being a member at Bridge House about four years ago. If I didn't find Bridge House, my life would be very different. I believe I would be hospitalized or even dead. So this mental health program really saved my life.

There are not many programs like Bridge House. I received a lot of support from my case manager, and the other staff. I have also developed strong relationships with the other members.

One of the most important supports I received was surrounding my PTSD. They recognized my suffering and helped me find safe ways to deal with my feelings.

Bridge House also taught me things I did not know and helped me get a job when I was strong enough. In closing, this program saved my life and they have become my family. I ask you to increase the funding for mental health services.

Thank you